

**MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSIONERS CHAMBERS  
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1999  
7 P.M.**

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING LANCASTER COUNTY'S PROPOSED BUDGET  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair  
Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair  
Bernie Heier  
Linda Steinman  
Bob Workman

Others Present: Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Director  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk

**RURAL LIBRARIES**

Carol Connor, Director of Lincoln City Libraries, appeared and gave a brief background regarding the bookmobile service which makes stops in Hickman, Sprague, Martell, Cheney, Bennet, Hallam, Firth, Rokeby, Malcolm and Waverly. In addition, she stated, they provide the Summer County Outreach Program which provides story time, registers children for library cards and provides books for check out in Davey, Denton, Emerald, Holland, Panama and Raymond.

She stated their funding request for the library services contract is \$428,300 and provides access to all the public libraries, Internet, collections, adult and children programs, bookmobile and outreach services.

**LANCASTER COUNTY PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000**

Campbell gave a brief introduction regarding Lancaster County's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 1999-2000. She explained that the tax rate should decrease by approximately 7.2 percent to .2583 cents per \$100 of value, based on preliminary valuation numbers. Campbell added that this would be the fourth consecutive year that the County has been able to decrease the tax rate.

The Chair opened the hearing for public testimony.

John Boehm, representing the Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA), appeared and stated he feels the budget process for the County is a very open one, however, he expressed disappointment that more citizens don't take advantage of appearing before the County Board and participating in the process.

Boehm stated LIBA would like to commend the County Board for a good and efficient job on the budget and that they look forward to working with them in the future.

Campbell asked if anyone else wished to provide testimony.

## **RAILROAD SAFETY TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT**

Jeff DeLine, 5608 Kearney Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska, appeared regarding the Railroad Safety Transportation District (RSTD). He questioned why the RSTD continues to budget millions of additional dollars each year rather than spend it. He stated in May, 1999 there was \$17,000,000 in the budget.

DeLine gave a brief history of the RSTD's budget of expenditures and previous property tax requests which he noted are available in the audit report for the RSTD.

He stated he feels the RSTD is not using their money wisely and suggested that they put a budget together to be presented to the County Board regarding money to be spent for the year.

Also suggested was the Legislature giving the RSTD the power to issue bonds

Steinman said that because the RSTD cannot issue bonds, they must set aside money to save for future projects which have been identified. She also noted that fruition of a contract can be a lengthy process.

Campbell commented that the State Department of Roads also saves money for its future Grade Crossing Protection Program.

Hudkins stated DeLine had a good point regarding the ability to issue bonds and noted that the City of Lincoln can borrow money by issuing bonds more cheaply than the taxpayers could.

DeLine concluded by suggesting that the County Board review the budget for the RSTD.

The Chair asked if anyone else wished to provide testimony.

No one appeared and the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to adjourn the public hearing regarding Lancaster County's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Years 1999-2000. On call Steinman, Campbell, Hudkins, Heier and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

---

Bruce Medcalf  
County Clerk